

# Indiana Agriculture — A Progress Report

*Indiana Agriculture —  
It All Starts With the Land!*



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Office of the  
Commissioner  
of Agriculture

A Progress  
Report for  
2000

State of Indiana  
Frank O'Bannon, Governor

Joseph E. Kernan, Lieutenant Governor and  
Commissioner of Agriculture

Joseph R. Pearson, Assistant Commissioner  
of Agriculture

# Indiana Agriculture — A Progress Report

## Meet Our Staff

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# Indiana Agriculture — A Progress Report

## “Team Ag” — Partnerships That Build a Strong Indiana Agriculture



Lt. Governor Joe Kernan

*“Achievement is a we thing, not a me thing, always the product of many heads and hands.”*  
— J. Atkinson

Throughout the first year of the new millennium, many of the successes experienced within Indiana’s agricultural industry can be credited to *Team Ag* — the partnership of farm and commodity organizations, agribusinesses, and state and federal agencies that serve Indiana’s first industry — Agriculture!

As commissioner of Agriculture, I take great pride in representing an industry focused on that “we” theme. Whether it is the proposed confined feeding rule, land use issues, or the strength of Indiana’s rural communities — men and women from every facet of Indiana agriculture do what it takes to make our state a great place to live, work and raise a family. The work is sometimes tedious and difficult, but the outcomes are tremendous and meaningful.

For example, through the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture’s (OCA) positive relationship with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, livestock and poultry producer organizations and Hoosier environmental groups have worked together on the confined feeding rulemaking process. The result — the OCA is building broader and permanent partnerships for the future.

In addition, we’ve utilized the expertise and skills of farmers, developers, urban and rural residents, land use planners, and Indiana citizens to provide sound tools and strategies to tackle Indiana land use issues. This way, we are building the bridge to broader cooperation at the local, state and federal level.

Indiana agriculture would not be strong without the support, knowledge and experience of Purdue University — our land grant university. *Team Ag* works because of the State of Indiana’s relationship with the research, Extension and education staff of Purdue’s School of Agriculture.

Finally, *Team Ag* also describes the partnership developed with representatives and

senators in the Indiana General Assembly who work on behalf of Indiana agriculture.

The mission of the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture is *to promote Indiana agriculture, rural development and sustainable communities through partnership building*. This is the foundation on which we will continue to work to strengthen Indiana’s agricultural industry.



Joseph E. Kernan  
Lieutenant Governor and  
Commissioner of Agriculture

## ***Indiana Agriculture — It All Starts With the Land!***



# Indiana Agriculture — A Progress Report

## A Draft Confined Feeding Rule for Livestock and Poultry Producers Brings Indiana Agriculture Together

It's been three years in the making, and the partnerships formed between the agricultural industry and state government are stronger than ever.

The preliminarily-adopted confined feeding rule for Indiana livestock and poultry operations is a compilation of cooperative work between the agricultural and environmental communities and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). All those involved in the development of the rule share the goal of ensuring water quality protection while maintaining a viable animal agriculture industry in Indiana.

"Indiana's draft confined feeding rule has been written by IDEM and stakeholders to protect water quality, be environmentally sound and be economically achievable for producers," says Lt. Governor Joe Kernan.

Over 20 drafts of the confined feeding rule were created, modified and communicated in workgroup sessions and statewide public meetings over the past three years. The Water Pollution Control Board is expected to approve a final rule in early 2001.

The State of Indiana has had a confined feeding law since 1971. Confined feeding operations are livestock and poultry operations with at least 300 cattle, 600 swine or sheep, or 30,000 fowl. Indiana has approximately 3,100 such operations.

IDEM is drafting a guidance document to accompany the new rule so Indiana farmers can easily comply

with its requirements. Over the past 30 years, Indiana's livestock and poultry producers have operated under a zero discharge standard. The draft rule provides IDEM increased oversight and allows for the agency's commissioner to alter requirements for confined feeding operators.

In conjunction with writing a confined feeding rule, IDEM developed and launched a new \$2 million grant program in September 2000 to help livestock and poultry farmers address some of the requirements in the rule. It is designed to assist farmers in implementing nutrient management and erosion control practices on Indiana farms. Nutrient management is a critical component of confined feeding operations.

The grant program is an example of the *Team Ag* concept between IDEM, which provided the funding, and its partners. The Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Soil Conservation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service will jointly administer the program along

with Indiana's 92 county Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

The partnership is a natural for the environmental and agricultural industries. According to IDEM Commissioner Lori Kaplan, the grant pro-



*In September 2000, IDEM Commissioner Lori Kaplan (left) announced details of the Water Quality Improvement Grant Program from Mark Legan's Putnam County hog farm. Kaplan is joined by (from the left) Mark and Phyllis Legan and Joe Pearson, assistant commissioner of agriculture.*

gram allows state government to be a good neighbor to its farmers and a good caretaker of the environment.

With tight profit margins for Indiana producers, the grant program complements the proposed confined feeding rule. "The IDEM grant program recognizes the financial impact new confined feeding rules will have on livestock and poultry operations," said Mark Legan, a Putnam County pork producer. "This is important as producers work to meet the new environmental regulations."

OCA's confined feeding representative is Julia Wickard, (317) 232-8778, [jwickard@commerce.state.in.us](mailto:jwickard@commerce.state.in.us).



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## Wise Land Use Important to Indiana's Future

Members of the Indiana Land Resources Council (ILRC) agree that wise use of our land and natural resources is of critical importance to the future of Indiana.

Urban sprawl and the loss of farmland is readily visible to anyone familiar with suburban and rural America. The quality of land lost and the distribution of that loss are issues that deserve state and national attention.

The ILRC will focus on alternatives to reduce the disappearance of prime farmland in Indiana. This will provide a path for local leaders to decide the future of their communities, and to ensure a balance between urban, suburban, rural and agricultural land uses.

The Council spent 2000 developing partnerships between county and state government units. This network will provide local and state decision makers with information and

expertise on land use tools.

"Decisions like these are best made at the local level," Lt. Governor Joe Kernan says, "so the ILRC must help provide communities with better access to technical information, referrals for assistance and additional funding sources for planning projects."

In August, the lieutenant governor named Joe Tutterrow as the Council's director. Kernan told ILRC members that Tutterrow, an 18-year veteran with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, "has the knowledge base and appreciation for land utilization that is critical as the ILRC moves forward."



*The Indiana Land Resources Council will release its first report to Indiana legislators in 2001. The report will summarize the first year's activities of the Council. A copy of the report will be available by calling the ILRC at (317) 234-5262.*

mation that "tells the story" of where Indiana stands on land use issues. "This baseline information is necessary before we can determine the specific direction we'll take," says Tutterrow. "Many land use decisions made today will be irreversible. We must ensure they are good ones."

The ILRC continues the dialogue initiated almost three years ago by the Hoosier Farmland Preservation Task Force. "As 2001 unfolds, we'll begin to facilitate the management and distribution of information local Indiana communities need to make informed and effective decisions for their future," says Tutterrow.

Questions on Indiana Land Resources Council activities should be directed to Tutterrow at (317) 234-5262, or by e-mail at [jtutterrow@commerce.state.in.us](mailto:jtutterrow@commerce.state.in.us).



*ILRC members are (from the left, front row): Mary McConnell, environment; Lt. Governor Joe Kernan, Chair, and Samuel Smith, forestry. In the back row (from the left): David Hess, county government; P. Riely O'Connor, homebuilding and land development; Don Strietelmeier, soil and water conservation districts; Eric Damian Kelly, academia; Bob Guernsey, farm owners; and John Fernandez, municipal government.*

According to Tutterrow, the Council has a tremendous opportunity to partner with Indiana communities to develop a shared vision of Indiana's landscape for the next generation. Tutterrow says the Council spent a great deal of time in 2000 gathering infor-

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## Grant Programs Strengthen the Agricultural Industry

### Federal State Marketing Improvement Program

Small to mid-sized cattle operations in Indiana received a big boost in 2000, thanks to the work provided by Purdue University Extension specialists and the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture (OCA).

Lt. Governor Kernan announced in August 2000 that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through the Federal State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP), awarded a \$78,000 matching grant to Purdue Beef Specialists Ron Lemenager and Matt Claeys, along with Meat Science Specialist John Forrest.

FSMIP is one of three grant programs administered through the

and concentrated market.

Most small producers cannot sell cattle in semi-load quantities. According to Lemenager, these farmers do not have the livestock numbers to put together a load of cattle uniform in size, gender, color and quality.

The Purdue grant will:

- Provide local processors with the ability to evaluate cattle and provide timely feedback to the farmer;
- Create a certified freezer beef program where small to mid-sized producers and processors can work together to enhance profitability; and
- Develop a partnership with a company to create a web-based system to collect, track, analyze, coordinate and disseminate information on Indiana cattle.

### Livestock Promotion and Development Grant Program

With the help of a Livestock Promotion and Development Grant from the OCA, over 15,000 Delaware County residents and elementary students now know more about Indiana's livestock industry. The Delaware County Farm Festival brought the "farm" to the city through demonstrations, farm animal exhibits and other educational activities during National Agriculture Week. "Participants get a real understanding about Delaware County livestock, poultry and crop production," says Lt. Gov-

ernor Joe Kernan.

The Indiana Livestock Promotion and Development Grant program is designed to aid, encourage and promote the development and improvement of the livestock and poultry industry throughout Indiana. The fund was established by the Indiana General Assembly and is administered by the OCA. Twenty-four Livestock Promotion and Development grants totaling almost \$260,000 were awarded to recipients in 2000.

Funds may be used to support livestock sales, shows, expositions and conventions, and to expand new or existing markets.

### Value-Added Grant Program

Armed with grants from the OCA and the Purdue University School of Agriculture, researcher Dan Egel is on a mission. His goal is to unravel the mystery surrounding a disease plaguing southwest Indiana melon farmers for more than three years.

Egel is one of 20 recipients for the 2000 round of OCA Value-Added grants. Purdue University researchers and private agricultural organizations received a total of \$586,000.

Egel and other faculty members of Purdue's Botany and Plant Pathology Department will use the \$65,000 value-added grant to identify cultural conditions that bring about the onset of Mature Watermelon Vine Decline (MWVD). "By determining the environmental and cultural factors contributing to MWVD, we can help farmers manage the disease," Egel



*Small to mid-sized cattle operations in Indiana will benefit from the work provided by Purdue University Extension specialists and a \$78,000 FSMIP grant from the USDA.*

OCA. Its goal is to help farms thrive through the development of new market opportunities or products.

Purdue's FSMIP proposal helps small-scale beef cattle producers survive in an increasingly competitive

*Continued on page 6*



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## Agricultural Grants Strengthen the Industry (con't.)

says. The knowledge gained from this project will likely benefit all Indiana vegetable growers.

Value-added projects, selected through a competitive process, involve research initiatives by individuals, public or private companies, colleges, universities or agricultural interest groups. The goal is to develop

new uses and demands for Indiana agriculture products, thus increasing the economic advantage these products offer.

Projects funded in 2000 encompass a wide variety of agricultural research in crops, livestock and poultry. The Value-Added Grant Program provides funding for approximately 50

percent of the \$1 million total cost for the 20 grants. Dollars leveraged through the program provided the State of Indiana with a 2-to-1 return on its investment.

For more information on OCA grant programs, contact Renee Carnahan, Director of Grants and Education at (317) 232-8769, or by e-mail at [rcarnahan@commerce.state.in.us](mailto:rcarnahan@commerce.state.in.us).

## Agricultural Industry Programs Initiated in 2000

### Dairy Industry Development Law

With the passage of the Dairy Industry Development Law during the 2000 session of the Indiana General Assembly, the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture has worked even closer with Indiana's dairy farmers and agribusinesses.

The law creates the Indiana Dairy Industry Development Board and establishes procedures for selection of board members and board operations. It also establishes an assessment of \$0.10 per hundredweight on all milk produced in Indiana for commercial use. These monies will be used for the Dairy Industry Development Fund.

#### Members of the **Indiana Dairy Industry Development Board** are:

- Lt. Governor Joe Kernan, Commissioner of Agriculture
- Don Buckley, Columbus Ohio
- Dave Byers, West Lafayette
- Randy Deetz, Waterloo
- Donald Gurtner, Fremont
- William Harrell, Argos
- George Jones, Indianapolis
- Merrill Kelsay, Whiteland
- Steve Landis, Goshen
- Randy Martin, Silver Lake
- Myrna Metzger, McCordsville
- Richard Monhaut, Bremen
- Steve Rauscher, Huntingburg
- Charles Shaw, Hope
- Susan Troyer, Goshen

The U.S. Department of Agriculture no longer collects milk promotion money from dairy producers. The Indiana Board will use funds collected on the state level for advertising and promotion, market research, nutrition, product research and development, and nutrition and educational programs.

### New Organic Standards Rule

Indiana's organic farmers have worked during 2000 to develop a proposed Organic Standards Rule for organic food, livestock and poultry production. The rule addresses inspection, labeling, certification, marketing, processing, and other aspects of organic farming.

The rule's standards require that an organic agricultural product must be:

- Produced and handled without the use of synthetic chemicals except as otherwise provided in the title;
- Produced on land to which any prohibited substance, including synthetic chemicals, has not been applied during the three years immediately preceding the harvest of the agricultural products, except as otherwise provided; and
- Produced and handled in compliance with an organic plan agreed to by the producer, handler and the certifying agent.

The proposed rule will assure consumers they are receiving organically grown agricultural products. A new logo, adopted in 2000 by the Organic Peer Review Panel, will identify certified organic products. The proposed rule ensures the quality of Indiana organic crops and creates a value-added market for certified "Indiana Organic."

For more information on these new initiatives, contact Neil Bloede, (317) 232-8767, or by e-mail at [nbloede@commerce.state.in.us](mailto:nbloede@commerce.state.in.us).

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## 2000 — a Challenging Year for Grain Buyers Agency

Routine regulatory responsibilities for the Indiana Grain Buyers and Warehouse Licensing Agency (IGBWLA) include oversight of 500 grain firms — with over 300 currently required to be licensed. There are 700 storage facilities licensed in Indiana, with a total storage capacity of 370 million bushels of grain.

During the past 12 months the agency:

- Partnered with two national organizations to develop a pilot electronic warehouse receipts program; and
- Settled three grain buyer/warehouse failures — paying \$128,298 to 15 Indiana producers through the Indiana Grain Indemnity Corporation (IGIC).

### Indiana Kicks Off Electronic Warehouse Receipts Pilot Project

Indiana grain warehouses are among the first in the nation to issue Electronic Warehouse Receipts (EWR) for grain to producers in a new pilot project.

The Association of American Warehouse Control Officials (AAWCO), in conjunction with Data Transmission Network (DTN), sponsors the program to standardize the use of EWR throughout North America. The IGBWLA coordinates the project for Hoosier grain buyers and farmers.

The pilot project, kicked off in December 2000, helps Indiana farmers and warehouses make the transition

from paper to computer receipts. Indiana is the first state participating in the pilot program.

Use of EWRs will expedite the process for producers who store grain and use it as collateral for a loan. It also fosters more reliable, competitive and efficient commerce within the agricultural industry, and allows for an electronic receipt from buyer to seller that is available across state and international boundaries.

### Indiana Grain Indemnity Fund

The failure of any business places a hardship on the owners, workers, community, and of course, those who do business with the company. Agriculture is no exception — the hardship of a grain company failure directly impacts Indiana's farmers.

The failure of three grain companies in 2000 drew little attention in Indiana's agricultural industry, however. The reason: producers who stored grain with or sold grain to the companies and participated in the Indiana Grain Indemnity Fund were compensated for a portion of their losses.

"The important message is that over \$100,000 in claims were paid under

the Indiana Grain Indemnity Program to producers who did business with these companies," Lt. Governor Joe Kernan says. "This brings the total paid to farmers to \$1.5 million since the fund's inception four years ago."

The fund's purpose is to protect producers in the event of a failure of a grain company licensed with the

IGBWLA. Established by the Indiana General Assembly, the program protects producers for 100 percent of their loss on stored grain and 80 percent of their loss on marketing transactions.

The voluntary indemnity program is funded by producers who pay a premium into the fund that is two-tenths of a percent from each payment they receive from the

sale of grain. Payments into the fund began on July 1, 1996, and continued until the fund reached its cap of \$10 million on July 1, 1998.

Any farmer who paid into the fund and has not received a refund of a premium collected is protected under the program. The fund is governed by a board of directors appointed by agricultural and banking organizations in the state.

You can contact IGBWLA Director Bob Benson at (317) 232-1356 or by e-mail at [bbenson@commerce.state.in.us](mailto:bbenson@commerce.state.in.us).



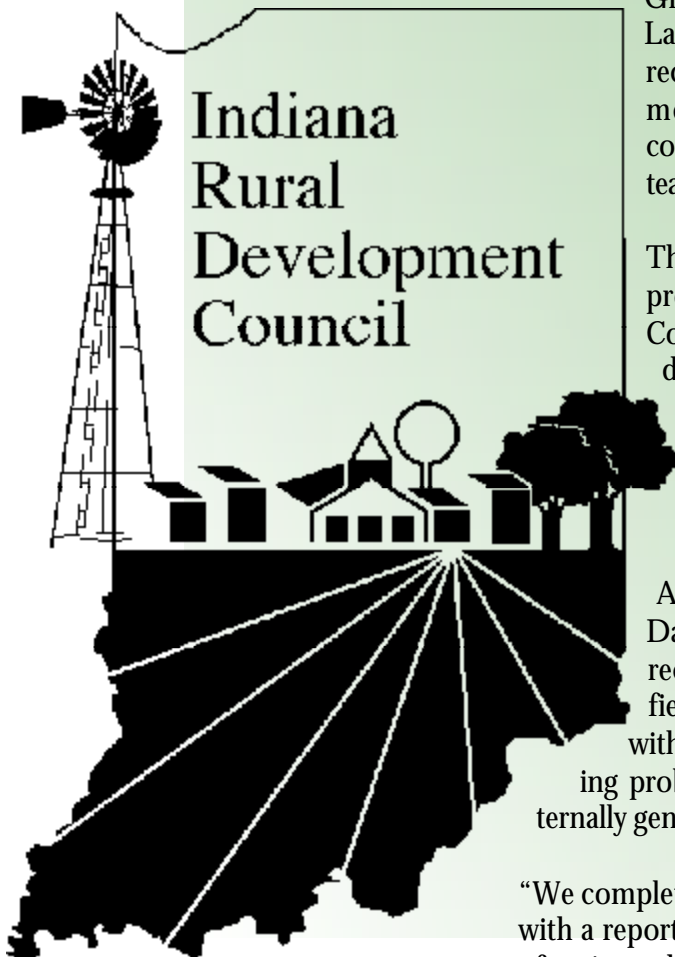
*The mission of the Indiana Grain Buyers and Warehouse Licensing Agency is to reduce risk to grain producers.*



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## Indiana Rural Development Council Leads the Way for Rural Communities

Whether it's funding ideas for infrastructure or housing improvements, the creation of a shared vision for a rural community, or solutions for improving the quality of life for rural citizens, the Indiana Rural Development Council (IRDC) serves a vital role.



"Strong rural communities provide the backbone for economic development and growth in the state," says Lt. Governor Joe Kernan, who joins local, state, federal, profit and not-for-profit rural stakeholders on the IRDC board.

One way to help build strength in a rural community is to provide an informal setting where citizens can raise

issues and brainstorm ideas. That is the premise behind the IRDC's Community Visitation Program (CVP).

In 2000, the communities of Bloomingdale, Parke County; Dunkirk, Jay/Blackford County; Elizabeth, Harrison County; Grabill, Allen County; and Laurel, Franklin County, received visits from the 15 men and women who comprise the IRDC's CVP team.

The community visitation program exemplifies the Council's purpose by coordinating citizens and governments to meet the economic and social needs of rural Indiana.

According to Wendy Dant, IRDC executive director, the Council identifies people who can work with the community in solving problems and supports internally generated strategies.

"We complete the visitation process with a report containing a summary of topics and issues shared during the visit," Dant says. "It offers action steps and available resources to address issues identified during our discussions. It is great to provide a setting for rural citizens to create a vision for their communities."

Joanne Sauder, Grabill Town Council president, says the IRDC report gives direction to town leaders as they address key issues for the future, add-

ing that the town benefits from "seeing yourself through someone else's eyes."

Another issue impacting Indiana's rural communities in 2000 was the increase of immigrants moving into the state. The IRDC worked with the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns to help make the transition a smooth one for rural communities and their citizens.

According to recent U.S. Census Bureau information for 1999 to 2000, immigrant populations showed the following increases in Indiana:

- Hispanics.....55.8%
- Asian & Pacific Islanders...54%

This compares to a 6.2% increase for Caucasians.

Two one-day workshops were offered in October 2000 to discuss issues designed to help local officials successfully integrate new residents into their communities.

"A community successfully working with new populations provides businesses with a strong workforce, social services, educational opportunities and a climate that embraces diversity," says Dant.

The IRDC's 2001 Work Plan will continue to focus on programs and activities which provide:

- Direct assistance to rural communities; and
- Opportunities to educate and influence policy as it impacts Indiana's rural citizens.

For more information on IRDC programs and activities contact Dant at (317) 232-8776, or by e-mail at [wdant@commerce.state.in.us](mailto:wdant@commerce.state.in.us).

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## Agricultural Policy Tops ICARD's 2000 Agenda

Indiana Commission for Agriculture and Rural Development (ICARD) committees were active during the 2000 calendar year, tackling a number of issues impacting the industry.

The Commission is a bipartisan citizens group formed in 1989 by the Indiana General Assembly. ICARD advises the governor, lieutenant governor and legislature on issues regarding agricultural policy, programs, legislation and education. Lt. Governor Joe Kernan chairs the group.

Agricultural policy issues discussed in 2000 ranged from milk marketing orders, to Phase I and Phase II tobacco payment structures, to environmental concerns from the agricultural industry. But, it was contracts that dominated the discussions.

ICARD's Contracts Advisory Committee spent the last two years study-

ing livestock and grain contracts. "Indiana's agricultural community first recognized the need to pursue contracts when pork prices dipped well below farmers' cost of production," says Lt. Governor Kernan.

ICARD worked with state legislators and Indiana's Attorney General Karen Freeman-Wilson to seek ways to protect farmers who contractually produce livestock, poultry or grain for large contractor companies. "It's important we do our part to ensure Indiana farmers are in the most competitive position possible in today's marketplace," says Kernan.

During 2001, the Commission will host public forums in agricultural and rural communities across Indiana as ICARD updates its strategic action plan for Indiana agriculture.

ICARD members are:

- Dennis Carnahan, Vincennes

- George Corya, Commiskey
- Wayne Dillman, Martinsville
- Richard Fellows, Nabb
- Fred Mann, Cloverdale
- David Ring, Huntingburg
- Danita Rodibaugh, Rensselaer
- Gene Schmidt, Hanna
- Mark Townsend, Hartford City
- Max Wilson, Kokomo
- Lt. Governor Joe Kernan, Commissioner of Agriculture, *Chair*
- Victor L. Lechtenburg, Dean of Agriculture, Purdue University, *Ex-officio*
- Joe Pearson, Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture, *Ex-officio*

Questions regarding ICARD programs should be directed to Julia Wickard, (317) 232-8778, [jwickard@commerce.state.in.us](mailto:jwickard@commerce.state.in.us).

## OCA Partnership Provides Assistance to Indiana Farmers

The Farm Counseling Project (FCP) is a valuable program within the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture that provides free legal and financial counseling for financially troubled farmers in Indiana.

Even though the farm economy improved in 2000, FCP staff say the inequities between commodity prices farmers receive and the actual cost of production continues to jeopardize the survival of family farms.

The Project's services are directed to assist Indiana producers by:

- Presenting U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-approved borrower training seminars in financial

management and record-keeping;

- Counseling producers at meetings of lenders and borrowers to facilitate communication and debt restructuring; and
- Assisting with filing loan applications and related documents.

To qualify for FCP assistance, a farmer must be the owner or operator of a crop and/or livestock or poultry farm that derives at least 25 percent in gross income from the sale of farm products. A farmer is considered financially troubled if, within each of the last six months, his/her farm debt has exceeded 40 percent of the gross value of the farming operation, and

the farm has experienced a negative cash flow that jeopardizes the continuance of the farming operation.

FCP services will expand in 2001 to include agricultural mediation under the *Rural Services of Indiana* umbrella. Agricultural mediation assists producers who have received a "non-favorable" opinion from their county USDA Farm Service, Rural Development or Natural Resources Conservation Service agency office.

Indiana farmers can contact one of three FCP offices at:

Lakeville	1-800-288-6581
Attica	1-800-545-2296
Columbus	1-800-298-1612



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## Indiana Agriculture Spans the Globe

Partnering with the Indiana Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Purdue University's School of Agriculture, and agribusiness representatives, the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture (OCA) seeks to maximize export opportunities for Indiana's value-added and bulk agricultural commodities.

Indiana's share of national agricultural exports was more than \$1.9 billion in 1999. Although Indiana is 38th in land size, the state ranks as the nation's 10th largest exporting state for agricultural products. Exports from Indiana's agricultural and food industries support more than 40,000 jobs throughout the state.

The OCA uses the international trade services provided by the Indiana Department of Commerce's 12 overseas trade offices, the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service's Branded Program and Food Export helpline, the Mid-America International AgriTrade Council (MIATCO), and the National Association for State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) to promote Indiana's agricultural exports.

The OCA also utilizes NASDA's U.S. Food Export Showcase, which is held annually in Chicago. It is the largest trade show designed to match buyers with U.S. agricultural food companies. More than 5,000 international and 20,000 domestic buyers attend the show. U.S. exporting companies



*Members of the Indiana Soybean Board, state legislature and Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture met with representatives from the Taiwan Agricultural Mission to talk about expanding Indiana grain exports.*

get maximum exposure at the show for a fraction of the cost.

OCA's international agriculture trade specialist is Andres Lelong. He can be reached at (317) 233-4459, or by e-mail at [alelong@commerce.state.in.us](mailto:alelong@commerce.state.in.us).

## OCA Administers Phase II Tobacco Distribution Program

As federal quotas to grow tobacco were reduced in 2000, the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture (OCA) worked with Governor Frank O'Bannon and Indiana Attorney General Karen Freeman-Wilson to secure compensation for Hoosier tobacco growers under the Phase II Tobacco Settlement. The agreement, which created the National Tobacco Growers Settlement Trust, is designed to ensure Indiana tobacco growers are compensated for lost quotas to grow tobacco.

The Indiana Commission for Agriculture and Rural Development's Tobacco Advisory Committee started work in 1999 developing an equitable program to distribute Phase II tobacco

settlement monies. Approximately \$60 million will be distributed over a 12-year period. Three million dollars was distributed approximately

7,700 individuals in 2000. Growers and quota owners in 33 Hoosier counties received payments last year.

Indiana is the eighth largest producer of tobacco among the 14 states participating in the national trust.

"Two years ago, we organized an aggressive program to help Indiana's tobacco producers," says Lt. Governor Joe Kernan. "They were caught at an economic crossroads. The *Team Ag* partnership has made the program a smooth and orderly process for those affected."

OCA's tobacco settlement contact is Linda Gray, special projects coordinator. For information on the tobacco program, contact Gray at (317) 233-1572, or by e-mail at [lgray@commerce.state.in.us](mailto:lgray@commerce.state.in.us).

*Indiana's basic tobacco quota for 2000 was 6.5 million pounds.*



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## OCA Takes Agriculture's Message "On the Road"

Whether it is an audience of farmers, agribusiness representatives, or the general public, the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture (OCA) staff has a strong presence "on the road" at many trade shows and conventions each year.

"Of these many events, the Indiana State Fair provides the greatest opportunity to educate the non-farm public about Indiana agriculture," says Lt. Governor Joe Kernan.

Visitors to the 2000 Indiana State Fair witnessed Indiana agriculture at its best — whether they watched a corn shelling demonstration as it was done 70 years ago, viewed today's soil and water conservation practices, watched 4-H youth exhibit their livestock, or participated in the OCA's game show *Who Wants to Be a Farmer?*

The fair provides Lt. Governor Kernan with time to meet one-on-one with representatives from Indiana's agricultural commodity groups. Kernan met with 10 commodity and agricultural organizations during the 12-day fair and heard is-

suues and concerns from Indiana producers.

"These annual State Fair meetings are the perfect time and place for farmers to talk frankly and openly about what's affecting them and the industry," says Kernan. "They are valuable in learning what the state can do to effectively respond to agricultural concerns."

"These discussions at the State Fair offer producers from each segment of our industry the chance to address issues directly to the commissioner," said Paul Brennan, executive vice president of the Indiana State Poultry Association. "This ensures his awareness of our concerns and updates us on what the State of Indiana is doing on behalf of agriculture."

OCA staff also participated in 10 additional agricultural trade shows throughout the year, including the Indiana-Illinois and Fort Wayne farm shows, commodity and agricultural organization shows. Preparations are



*During the Indiana State Fair, Lt. Governor Kernan met with youth involved in Indiana's agricultural industry. Above, he's shown with the 2000-2001 State FFA officers.*

underway for the 2001 Farm Progress Show to be held south of Lafayette in Tippecanoe County on Sept. 25-27, 2001. Indiana hosts this show every three years, rotating host duties with Illinois and Iowa.

For more information on OCA outreach activities, contact DeeDee Sigler at (317) 233-2207, or by e-mail at [dsigler@commerce.state.in.us](mailto:dsigler@commerce.state.in.us).

## Hoosier Homestead Program Celebrates Agricultural Heritage

Lt. Governor Joe Kernan honored over 70 century-old farms in 2000 with Hoosier Homestead awards. The awards program, sponsored by the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture, recognizes farms which have been in the same family for at least 100 consecutive years.

"It is wonderful to pay tribute to these Hoosier farms and the men and women who have worked hard to

maintain the long-standing tradition of the family farm," says the lieutenant governor. "This is the foundation of Indiana agriculture."

Last year's recipients join approximately 4,400 Indiana farms previously honored under the program. Roy and Avalynne Cooper of Goodland, and approximately 20 members of the Cooper family, traveled to Indianapolis for the state-house ceremony last spring. The Co-

opers continued their celebration at home by hosting a party for family, friends and the community. Over 150 relatives from across the U.S. – and as far away as Taiwan – joined the Coopers for a weekend of activities honoring their Newton County farm.

Hoosier Homestead Award applications are available on the web at [www.state.in.us/oca](http://www.state.in.us/oca), or by calling (317) 232-8770.



# Indiana Agriculture — A Progress Report

## OCA Partnerships - Teamwork for Agriculture

### Indiana Agriculture Resource Council (IARC)

The Indiana Agriculture Resource Council (IARC) is a partnership of 23 commodity/farm organizations and state and federal agencies,

The Council continues to build on the educational poster — *Indiana's Ag Extravaganza* — developed two years ago for fourth grade students. New poster worksheets will be introduced in 2001. This will complement a 100,000 print run of the *Ag Extravaganza* placemats available for county Ag Day activities.

The IARC's web site utilizes the information developed for the poster. It includes links to other web sites providing access to a multitude of agricultural information.

The IARC web address is [www.indag.org](http://www.indag.org). For more information on IARC activities contact DeeDee Sigler at (317) 233-2207.

### Diplomats Share Time with Farm Families for Agriculture Short Course

Negotiating trade agreements or policy solutions requires special expertise. Last fall, 31 senior foreign policy and national security officials from the U.S. government added to their knowledge base with a dose of agricultural education — as they fed hogs, rode horses, combined crops and drove tractors during visits to Indiana farms.

The visits are part of the U.S. State Department's Senior Seminar Program, a nine-month professional development experience designed to enhance the leadership and executive skills of individuals preparing for top-level service with the U.S. government and State Department. Indiana has hosted the Program's agriculture curriculum for 10 years. It is structured to broaden participants' understanding of the U.S. and its diversity in agriculture.

Indiana's portion of the Senior Seminar Program is provided through a partnership between state and federal agricultural agencies, Dow AgroSciences, Purdue University and Hoosier farm families who host the diplomats.

Twenty-eight Indiana farm families hosted diplomats in 2000. "The farm visit is a highlight of the diplomats' program. For most, it is their first on-farm exposure to agriculture. What better place to learn about agriculture than in the heart of the Midwest and with Hoosier farmers?," says Lt. Governor Joe Kernan.

Bartholomew County farmers Julia and Kenneth Bense believe hosting a Senior Seminar diplomat is a great experience. "It's an excellent opportunity for us to showcase Indiana agriculture," says Julia. "We get them out in the field and talk about how prices are established for our grain. We enjoy learning about their backgrounds. In the end, we learn as much as we teach."

Indiana's agricultural industry provides a perfect setting for the Senior Seminar Program because of the state's diverse production — from melon production in southern Indiana to mint production in northern Indiana fields — with livestock, poultry and grain production in between.

The true success of the program comes when the diplomats return from their 36-hour farm visits and marvel at the technology, business skill and craftsmanship needed to operate an Indiana farm.

For more information on the Senior Seminar program, contact Julia Wickard at (317) 232-8778.

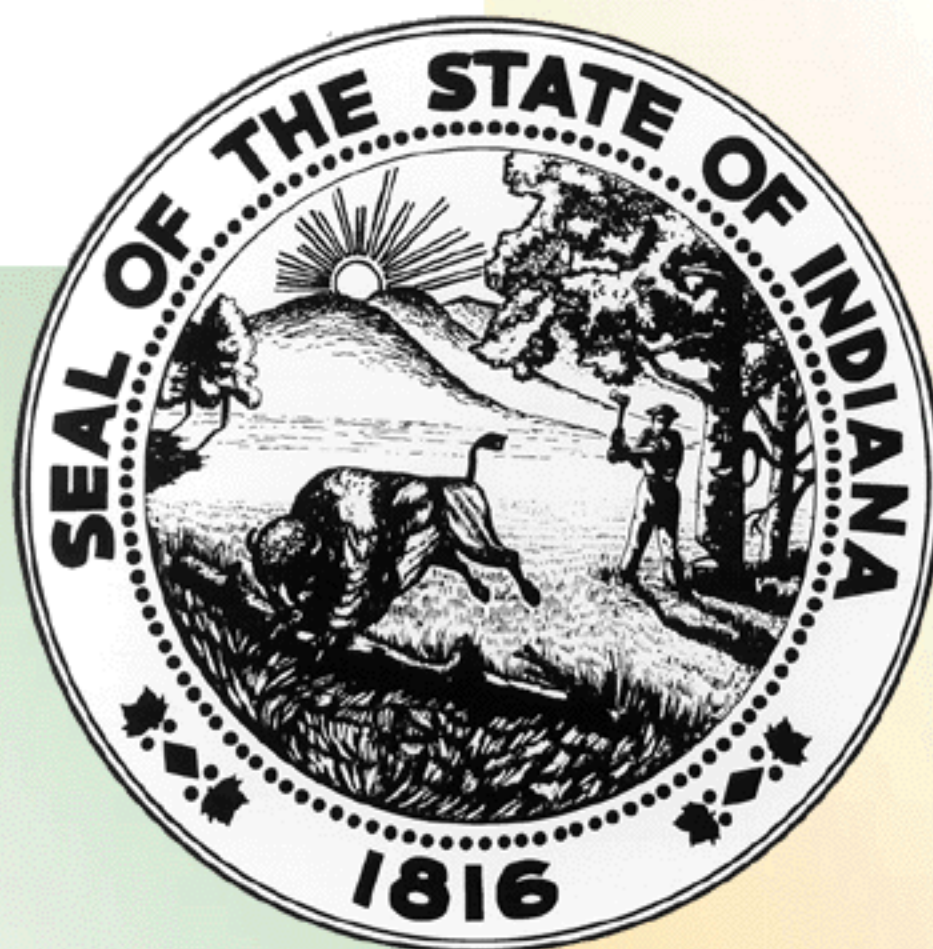


The IARC AG Extravaganza poster and placemat provides educational information on Indiana agriculture.

facilitated by the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture (OCA). The Council's mission is "an informed public with a positive image of modern agriculture." To this end, the IARC:

- Promotes the benefits and positive aspects of agriculture based on facts and science;
- Creates educational initiatives focusing on the importance of agriculture;
- Shares resources and services for consumer education;
- Facilitates the public's understanding of the link between quality agriculture products and a healthy environment; and
- Creates opportunities for agriculture awareness.

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